Supreme Court, U.S.
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NO. 90-1600

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1990

STATE OF ALABAMA,

PETITIONER,

V.

TIMOTHY JOHN YELDER,

RESPONDENT.

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA

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QUESTION PRESENTED FOR REVIEW

1. Whether this Court should grant certiorari and overrule the holding of the Alabama Supreme Court which decided a substantial federal question when it held that the failure of Respondent's trial counsel to make a Batson v. Kentucky, 476 U.S. 79 (1986) objection was presumptively prejudicial under Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668 (1984)?

PARTIES

The caption contains the names of all the parties in the court below.

OPINIONS BELOW

1. The opinion of the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals affirming the Respondent's conviction has not yet been reported. A copy of this opinion is reproduced as Appendix A to this petition.

2. The opinion of the Supreme Court of Alabama reversing and remanding Respondent's conviction has not yet been reported. A copy of this opinion is reproduced as Appendix B to this petition.

3. The order of the Supreme Court of Alabama denying Petitioner's motion to stay pending appeal to this Honorable Court will not be reported. A copy of this order is reproduced as Appendix C to this petition.

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STATEMENT OF JURISDICTION

Petitioner seeks review of a final decision of the Alabama Supreme Court issued on January 11, 1991, reversing and remanding Respondent's convictions for rape in the first degree, burglary in the first degree, and robbery in the first degree. The State of Alabama has filed this petition within 90 days of that date. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1257.

Even though the Supreme Court of Alabama remanded this case to the trial court for a Batson[1] hearing, the holding of the Supreme Court is final and is the law of the State of Alabama. The case has been reversed and remanded for an application of the holding of the Alabama Supreme Court and not for further proceedings which will alter the holding of the Alabama Supreme Court. Under Alabama law as it now stands, a defense

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[1] Batson v. Kentucky, 476 U.S. 79 (1986).

attorney must make a Batson objection to the racial composition of the jury even when it is not in the best interest of his client since the failure to make a Batson objection is presumptively prejudicial under Strickland v. Washington. Thus, the holding of the Alabama Supreme Court is final and the granting of Petitioner's petition for writ of certiorari would be proper at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS INVOLVED

United States Constitution, Amendment VI:

> "In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense."

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On July 11, 1988, the Respondent was indicted by the grand jury of Montgomery County for the offenses of rape in the first degree in violation of §13A-6-61, Code of Alabama 1975, burglary in the first degree in violation of §13A-7-5, Code of Alabama 1975, and for robbery in the first degree in violation of §13A-8-41, Code of Alabama 1975. (C.R. 7-12) A jury trial was held on these matters on August 15-17, 1988. The Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals stated the following concerning the facts of this case:

> "The evidence presented by the State tended to show that between 10:30 and 11:30 p.m. on May 30, 1988, the victim was awakened by an intruder in her east Montgomery home. She was then forcibly raped and robbed. After expressing anger at the small amount of cash in the victim's handbag, the assailant fled.
>
> "The victim then called the police to report the crime. When the police arrived shortly thereafter, the victim was waiting for them outside in her front yard, because she was afraid to be in the house alone. One officer entered her home to make sure the

assailant was gone, then returned outside to where the victim and the other officers were. The victim was interviewed and gave officers a description of her assailant. She was then taken to an area hospital for examination and treatment. Meanwhile, police evidence technicians were searching her home for evidence to aid in identifying the assailant. The search turned up a latent palm print. Several items of evidence were recovered, along with hair and fiber samples.

"The palm print was later compared with, and found to be a perfect match with, the known palm print of Timothy John Yelder, the appellant. Hair, fiber, and semen samples could not be positively identified as having come from the appellant. Experts could state only that, based on the samples, the appellant could have been the assailant. Additionally, investigators discovered that a co-worker of appellant's picked him up at a convenience store near the victim's home between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. on May 31, 1988. Yelder told his co-worker that he had had a flat tire on his van late on the night before and, instead of calling someone to come and get him, he just slept in his van. Appellant was subsequently arrested, charged, and convicted of first-degree rape, robbery, and burglary." (Appendix A - pages 2-3)

The jury returned a guilty verdict on all three charges against the Respondent. (R. 499-500, Appendix A) At the sentencing hearing, the trial court sentenced Respondent to life imprisonment on the rape charge, 25 years' imprisonment on the burglary charge, and 50 years' imprisonment on the robbery charge. (S.H.R. 13-16, Appendix A)

On September 29, 1988, the Respondent filed a motion for a new trial. (C.R. 70-78, Appendix A) The Respondent amended this motion on November 3, 1988. (C.R. 117-122) In the amended motion, the Respondent alleged that his trial counsel was ineffective because he failed to raise a Batson[2] objection concerning the State's use of its peremptory challenges. (Appendix A) A hearing was held on this motion on December 5, 1988. (N.T.H.R. 1) The Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals stated the following concerning this hearing:

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[2]Batson v. Kentucky, 476 U.S. 79 (1986).

> "At the hearing on this motion, trial counsel testified that 18 of the 73 potential jurors qualified in this case were black. Trial counsel further testified that the State used 17 of its 29 peremptory challenges to remove 17 of the 18 black prospective jurors. The racial composition of the jury was 11 white jurors and one black juror. Trial counsel stated that he made no Batson objection to the State's use of its peremptory challenges to strike black prospective jurors despite the fact that Batson had been decided more than two years prior to appellant's trial. When trial counsel was asked if he had read the recent Alabama decisions on Batson prior to striking the jury in this case, he replied, "Since the Yelder trial I have read the Branch [Ex parte Branch, 526 So.2d 609 (Ala. 1987) (general guidelines set out for application of Batson decision)] decision." (Appendix A - pages 6-7)

After this hearing, the trial court denied the motion for a new trial. (C.R. 88)

The Respondent appealed his convictions to the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals. On appeal, the Respondent argued that his trial counsel was ineffective because he failed to make a Batson objection to the racial composition of the jury. In a 4-1 decision

issued on May 25, 1989, the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals affirmed Respondent's convictions. (Appendix A) The Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals refused to reverse Respondent's convictions on the Batson issue because Respondent failed to prove that the decision reached by the jury would have been different absent his trial counsel's failure to raise a Batson objection under the second part of the test for proving ineffective assistance of counsel set forth by this Court in Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668 (1984).

The lone dissenting judge wrote that the outcome-determinative test of Strickland v. Washington should not be used when the ineffective assistance of counsel claim arises from the failure to make a Batson objection. (Appendix A - page 12) This judge stated the following in his dissent:

> "The test must, of necessity then be one of presumed prejudice, i.e., that if in fact blacks were unfairly removed from his jury,

> the appellant was deprived of a fair trial, a trial whose result is reliable.
>
> "***
>
> "If the appellant's trial was marred by purposeful racial discrimination, then we must presume he has been denied the very protection the right to trial by jury was intended to secure." (Appendix A - pages 12-13)

On June 29, 1990, the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals overruled the Respondent's application for rehearing.

The Respondent filed a petition for writ of certiorari in the Alabama Supreme Court and asked that court to reverse the judgment of the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals. Specifically, the Respondent asked the Alabama Supreme Court to hold that his trial counsel's failure to make a Batson objection to a prima facie case of purposeful discrimination by the State in the jury selection process was presumptively prejudicial under Strickland v. Washington.

The Alabama Supreme Court granted the Respondent's petition for writ of certiorari. In an 8-1 decision issued on January 11, 1991, the Alabama Supreme Court reversed the judgment of the majority of the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals and adopted the dissent in that court. (Appendix B) The Alabama Supreme Court held, as follows:

> "[T]he failure of trial counsel to make a timely Batson objection to a prima facie case of purposeful discrimination by the State in the jury selection process through its use of peremptory challenges is presumptively prejudicial to a defendant." (Appendix B - pages 5-6).

The Alabama Supreme Court then reversed and remanded this case to the trial court for a Batson hearing. (Appendix B)

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

THIS COURT SHOULD GRANT CERTIORARI AND OVERRULE THE HOLDING OF THE ALABAMA SUPREME COURT WHICH DECIDED A SUBSTANTIAL FEDERAL QUESTION WHEN IT HELD THAT THE FAILURE OF RESPONDENT'S TRIAL COUNSEL TO MAKE A BATSON V. KENTUCKY, 476 U.S. 79 (1986) OBJECTION WAS PRESUMPTIVELY PREJUDICIAL UNDER STRICKLAND V. WASHINGTON, 466 U.S. 668 (1984).

This Court should grant the Petitioner's petition for writ of certiorari because the Alabama Supreme Court has decided a substantial federal question which needs to be, but has not yet been, addressed by this Honorable Court. In this case, the Alabama Supreme Court held that the failure of Respondent's trial counsel to make a Batson objection to a prima facie case of purposeful discrimination by the State in the jury selection process through its use of peremptory challenges was presumptively prejudicial and constituted ineffective assistance of counsel under Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668 (1984). This

holding presents a federal constitutional question of significant proportions which this Court needs to address.

This Court set forth the legal standard to be used in determining ineffective assistance of counsel claims in Strickland v. Washington.[3] Strickland sets out two components of an ineffective assistance of counsel claim, as follows:

> "A convicted defendant's claim that counsel's assistance was so defective as to require reversal of a conviction or death sentence has two components. First, the defendant must show that counsel's performance was deficient. This requires showing that counsel made errors so serious that counsel was not functioning as the 'counsel' guaranteed the defendant by the Sixth Amendment. Second, the defendant must show that the deficient performance prejudiced the defense. This requires showing that counsel's errors were so serious as to deprive the defendant of a fair trial, a trial whose result is reliable. Unless a defendant makes both showings, it cannot be said that the conviction or death sentence

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[3] 466 U.S. 668 (1984).

> resulted from a breakdown in the adversary process that renders the result unreliable.[4]

The correct standard for attorney performance is an objective one, that is, "reasonableness under prevailing norms."[5] This Court defined the prejudice requirement as follows:

> "The defendant must show that there is a reasonable probability that but for the counsel's unprofessional errors, the result of the proceedings would have been different. A reasonable probability is a probability sufficient to undermine confidence in the outcome."[6]

The fundamental issue to be decided in an ineffective assistance of counsel case is "whether counsel's conduct so undermined the proper functioning of the adversarial process that the trial cannot be relied on as having produced a <u>just result</u>."[7] (Emphasis Added)

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[4]466 U.S. at 687.

[5]466 U.S. at 688.

[6]466 U.S. at 694.

[7]466 U.S. at 685.

Counsel's function is to assist the defendant and make sure that he receives a fair trial.[8] Strategic decisions made after thorough investigation of the law and facts relevant to plausible options are virtually unchallengeable.[9] This Court also stated the following in Strickland concerning ineffective assistance of counsel claims:

> "Attorney errors come in a infinite variety and are as likely to be utterly harmless in a particular case as they are to be prejudicial. They cannot be classified according to likelihood of causing prejudice. Nor can they be defined with sufficient precision to inform defense attorneys correctly just what conduct to avoid. Representation is an art, and an act or omission that is unprofessional in one case may be sound or even brilliant in another. Even if a defendant shows that particular errors of counsel were unreasonable, therefore, the defendant must show that they actually had an adverse effect on the defense."[10]

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[8] 466 U.S. at 685-686, 688-689.

[9] 466 U.S. at 690.

[10] 466 U.S. at 693.

The holding of the Alabama Supreme Court should be overruled by this Court because the failure to make a Batson objection is not a case where prejudice should be presumed.[11] In Strickland, this Court stated the following concerning when prejudice should be presumed:

> "In certain Sixth Amendment contexts, prejudice is presumed. Actual or constructive denial of the assistance of counsel altogether is legally presumed to result in prejudice. So are various kinds of State interference with counsel's assistance. Prejudice in these circumstances is so likely that case by case inquiry into prejudice is not worth the cost. Moreover, such circumstances involve impairments of the Sixth Amendment right that are easy to identify and, for that reason and because the prosecution is directly responsible easy for the government to prevent." (Citations omitted.)[12]

Prejudice has been presumed only in cases where a fundamental right has been denied such

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[11] Strickland, 466 U.S. at 692.

[12] 466 U.S. at 692.

as the right to counsel or the right to appeal. See Gideon v. Wainwright and Lozada v. Deeds.[13] These are cases where the right denied was necessary to the truth finding function of a trial. The failure of a defendant's trial counsel to make a Batson objection does not rise to the level of a denial of a fundamental right. See Tollett v. Henderson and Godfrey v. Kemp.[14]

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[13]Gideon v. Wainwright, 372 U.S. 335 (1963); Lozada v. Deeds, 111 S.Ct. 860 (1991).

[14]Tollett v. Henderson, 411 U.S. 258 (1973) (where this Court held that in order to obtain release in federal habeas proceedings on proof that the indicting grand jury was unconstitutionally selected, the defendant must establish that his attorneys advice to plead guilty without having made inquiry into the composition of the grand jury was outside the range of competence demanded of attorneys in criminal cases); and Godfrey v. Kemp, 836 F.2d 1557 (11th Cir. 1988) (where court held that jury discrimination claims must be raised in a timely fashion and that unless a defendant can show cause and prejudice existed or that the State denied him the opportunity to file a timely objection, the Court would not consider the merits of his grand jury challenge).

The fact that the failure to make a Batson objection does not rise to the level of denial of a fundamental right can be ascertained from the language of Batson itself. In order to establish a Batson violation the defendant has the initial burden of proving a prima facie case of purposeful discrimination. Only after the trial court finds that the defendant has made a prima facie showing does the State have to come forward and give a neutral explanation for its challenge of black jurors.[15] The prosecution's explanation for its challenges does not have to rise to the level justifying exercise of a challenge for cause.[16] Since the initial burden of proof is on the defendant and not on the State, it is clear that the failure to make a Batson objection is not such an egregious error as a case involving

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[15]Batson, 476 U.S. at 96-97.

[16]Batson, 476 U.S. at 97.

actual of constructive denial of counsel or state interference with counsel's assistance and therefore does not rise to the level of denial of a fundamental right.

Another indication that the failure of trial counsel to make a Batson objection does not involve a fundamental right is this Court's refusal to make Batson fully retroactive in Griffith v. Kentucky.[17] This Court in a case involving denial of a fundamental right held that its decision regarding denial of that fundamental right was fully retroactive. See Kitchens v. Smith.[18] However, in Griffith v. Kentucky, this Court refused to make Batson fully retroactive and held that the Batson principle could only be applied to pending cases in which a challenge to the composition of the jury was made at the trial level.[19] Thus,

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[17]Griffith v. Kentucky, 479 U.S. 314 (1987).

[18]Kitchens v. Smith, 401 U.S. 847 (1971).

[19]479 U.S. at 314.

it appears that the failure to make a Batson objection does not rise to the level of denial of a fundamental right such as the right to counsel and the right to appeal.

In fact, the holding of the Alabama Supreme Court in Yelder deprives a defendant of his Sixth Amendment right to effective representation of counsel that this Court attempted to protect in Strickland v. Washington and Polk County v. Dodson.[20] In Strickland, this Court held that counsel's function is to assist the defendant and make sure that he receives a fair trial.[21] In Polk County, this Court held that a defendant's attorney best serves the public by advancing the undivided interests of his client.[22]

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[20]Strickland, 466 U.S. at 685-686, 688-689; Polk County v. Dodson, 454 U.S. 312 (1981).

[21]466 U.S. at 685-686, 688-689.

[22]454 U.S. at 318-319.

Under Yelder, a defendant's attorney must make a Batson objection to the racial composition of the jury even though it might not be in his client's best interest to make such an objection since the failure to make a Batson objection to a prima facie case of purposeful discrimination is presumptively prejudicial under Strickland.[23] An attorney in Alabama can no longer look at the jurors which the State has struck and determine that he would have struck these same jurors or ascertain that he had the jury which was the most favorable to his client. An attorney can no longer make a strategic decision that he does not want to make a Batson objection to the racial composition of the jury. Instead, in every case where a prima facie case of purposeful discrimination exists under Batson, the defendant's attorney has to make a Batson objection under Yelder.[24] This is true

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[23]Yelder, Appendix B.

[24]Yelder, Appendix B.

even when the attorney has the exact jury that he wants for his client and has a jury which he believes is favorable to his client thereby failing to advance the undivided interests of his client and depriving the defendant of a fair trial.[25]

It is clear from what is set forth above that the failure to make a Batson objection does not rise to the level of denial of a fundamental right, therefore, the Alabama Supreme Court erred when it held that the

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[25]Under Yelder, a defense attorney may have a jury which is favorable to his client but because a prima facie case of purposeful discrimination exists, the attorney has to make a Batson objection. This becomes a problem for an attorney because of the existing remedies for a Batson violation in Alabama. In some courts, the judge will put the jurors who were discriminatorily struck back on the jury and make the State and defense strike different jurors from the jury. In other cases, the trial judge will make the parties restrike the entire jury. Thus, an attorney could go from having a jury which is favorable to his client to one which is highly unfavorable but the attorney has no choice under Yelder but to make his Batson objection thereby taking a chance that his client will be deprived of a fair trial.

failure to make a Batson objection was presumptively prejudicial. It is also clear that the holding of the Alabama Supreme Court in Yelder deprives a defendant of his Sixth Amendment right to effective representation of counsel. Therefore, this Honorable Court should overrule the decision of the Alabama Supreme Court.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, this Court should grant certiorari to decide the substantial-federal question presented in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES H. EVANS
ATTORNEY GENERAL
BY:

P. David Bjurberg

P. DAVID BJURBERG
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
OF ALABAMA

Beth Jackson Hughes

BETH JACKSON HUGHES
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY
GENERAL OF ALABAMA

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, P. David Bjurberg, a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, do hereby certify that on this 8 day of April, 1991, I did serve a copy of this petition and a copy of the accompanying appendix on Respondent, by placing the same in the United States Mail, first class postage prepaid, and properly addressed to counsel of record for Respondent as follows:

Honorable Arthur Parker
210 Frank Nelson Building
Birmingham, Alabama 35230

Honorable R. B. Jones
210 Frank Nelson Building
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

I further certify I have served all parties required to be served.

P. David Bjurberg

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V.

TIMOTHY JOHN YELDER,

RESPONDENT.

ON PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI
TO THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA

APPENDIX TO THE PETITION

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APPENDIX A

[RELEASED: MAY 25, 1990]

THE STATE OF ALABAMA --- JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

THE ALABAMA COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

OCTOBER TERM, 1989-90

3 Div. 95

Timothy John Yelder

v.

State

Appeal from Montgomery Circuit Court
(CC-88-1544, 88-1545, 88-1546)

TAYLOR, PRESIDING JUDGE

The appellant, Timothy John Yelder, was convicted of rape in the first degree, a violation of §13A-6-61, Code of Alabama 1975; burglary in the first degree, a violation of §13A-7-5, Code of Alabama 1975; and robbery in the first degree, a violation of §13A-8-41, Code of Alabama 1975. At the sentencing hearing, the trial court sentenced him to life imprisonment on the rape charge, 25 years' imprisonment on the burglary charge, and 50 years' imprisonment on the robbery charge.

The evidence presented by the State tended to show that between 10:30 and 11:30 p.m. on May 30, 1988, the victim was awakened by an intruder in her east Montgomery home. She was then forcibly raped and robbed. After expressing anger at the small amount of cash in the victim's handbag, the assailant fled.

The victim then called the police to report the crime. When the police arrived shortly thereafter, the victim was waiting for them outside in her front yard, because she was afraid to be in the house alone. One officer entered her home to make sure the assailant was gone, then returned outside to where the victim and the other officers were. The victim was interviewed and gave officers a description of her assailant. She was then taken to an area hospital for examination and treatment. Meanwhile, police evidence technicians were searching her home for evidence to aid in identifying the assailant. The search turned up a latent palm print. Several items of evidence were recovered, along with hair and fiber samples.

The palm print was later compared with, and found to be a perfect match with, the known palm print of Timothy John Yelder, the appellant. Hair, fiber, and semen samples could not be positively identified as having come from the appellant. Experts could state only that, based on the samples, the appellant could have been the assailant. Additionally, investigators discovered that a co-worker of appellant's picked him up at a convenience store near the victim's home between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. on May 31, 1988. Yelder told his co-worker that he had had a flat tire on his van late on the night before and, instead of calling someone to come and get him, had just slept in his van. Appellant was subsequently arrested, charged, and convicted of first-degree rape, robbery, and burglary.

I

Appellant's first contention of error is that his trial counsel was ineffective and that he therefore did not receive a fair

trial. Specifically, appellant argues that his trial counsel was ineffective in failing to object under Batson v. Kentucky, 476 U.S. 79, 106 S.Ct. 1712, 90 L.Ed.2d 69 (1986), to the State's use of its peremptory challenges and the racial composition of his jury. Our examination of the record reveals that the State used 17 of its 29 peremptory challenges to remove 17 of the 18 black prospective jurors. The record further reveals that appellant's jury consisted of 11 white jurors and one black juror.

The legal standard to be used in determining ineffective assistance of counsel claims is found in Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668, 104 S.Ct. 2053, 80 L.Ed.2d 674 (1984). That case sets out two components to an ineffective assistance of counsel claim:

> "A convicted defendant's claim that counsel's assistance was so defective as to require reversal of a conviction or death sentence has two components. First, the defendant must show that counsel's performance was deficient. This requires showing that counsel made errors so serious that counsel was

> not functioning as the 'counsel' guaranteed the defendant by the Sixth Amendment. Second, the defendant must show that the deficient performance prejudiced the defense. This requires showing that counsel's errors were so serious as to deprive the defendant of a fair trial, a trial whose result is reliable. Unless a defendant makes both showings, it cannot be said that the conviction or death sentence resulted from a breakdown in the adversary process that renders the result unreliable."

466 U.S. at 687. See also, Ex parte Lawley, 512 So.2d 1370, 1372 (Ala. 1987).

As to the first prong of an ineffective assistance claim, the Supreme Court held that the correct standard for attorney performance is an objective one; that is, "reasonableness under prevailing professional norms." 466 U.S. at 688. The Court went on to hold that "the performance inquiry must be whether counsel's assistance was reasonable considering all the circumstances." Id.

After an appellant has identified the specific acts or omissions which he alleges were the result of a lack of reasonable professional judgment, the court must then

determine whether those acts are "outside the wide range of professionally competent assistance." 466 U.S. at 690. In making this determination, "the court should recognize that counsel is strongly presumed to have rendered adequate assistance and made all significant decisions in the exercise of reasonable professional judgment." Id.

Even when an attorney's performance is found to be outside the wide range of professional reasonableness, the appellant's conviction will not be set aside "if the error had no effect on the judgment." 466 U.S. at 691. "Accordingly, any deficiencies in counsel's performance must be prejudicial to the defense in order to constitute ineffective assistance under the Constitution." 466 U.S. at 692. Only in cases involving denial of assistance of counsel and counsel's conflict of interest will prejudice be presumed. Id. Aside from these claims, "actual ineffectiveness claims alleging a deficiency

in attorney performance are subject to a general requirement that the defendant affirmatively prove prejudice." 466 U.S. at 693.[1]

The Supreme Court then set out the standard to be used in determining prejudice:

> "Accordingly, the appropriate test for prejudice finds its roots in the test for materiality of exculpatory information not disclosed to the defense by the

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[1]The dissent states that "the general requirement of affirmatively proving prejudice should, in a Batson context, give way to an additional exception for presumed prejudice...." Perhaps it should. As an intermediate-level appellant court, however, we are bound by law to follow the decisions of our Supreme Court. §12-3-16, Code of Alabama 1975. See also Potts v. State, 500 So. 2d 1318, 1321 (Ala. Cr. App. 1986); Scott v. State, 473 So. 2d 1167, 1178-79 (Ala. Cr. App. 1985). The United States Supreme Court's opinion in Strickland v. Washington, supra, was adopted by the Alabama Supreme Court in the case of Ex parte Baldwin, 456 So. 2d 129 (Ala. 1984), aff'd, 472 U.S. 372, 105 S.Ct. 2727, 86 L.Ed.2d 300 (1985). As "this court is bound, by the terms of the act creating the court, by the decisions of the Supreme Court and there is no authority vested in this court to overturn or change the decisions of the Supreme Court in any manner," Passmore v. State, 47 Ala.App. 189, 252 So.2d 115, 116 (1971), it would appear that it is the duty of the Supreme Court, and not this court to create an additional exception for presumed prejudice in a Batson context.

> prosecution. United States v. Agurs, 427 U.S., at 104, 112-113, and in the test for materiality of testimony made unavailable to the defense by Government deportation of a witness, United States v. Valenzuela- Bernal, [458 U.S. 858 (1982)] supra, at 872-874. The defendant must show that there is a reasonable probability that, but for counsel's unprofessional errors, the result of the proceeding would have been different. A reasonable probability is a probability sufficient to undermine confidence in the outcome."

466 U.S. at 694. More specifically, the Supreme Court, per Justice O'Connor, stated as follows:

> "When a defendant challenges a conviction, the question is whether there is a reasonable probability that, absent the errors, the factfinder would have had a reasonable doubt respecting guilt....
>
> "In making this determination, a court hearing an ineffectiveness claim must consider the totality of the evidence before the judge or jury."

466 U.S. at 695.

Having set out the legal standard to be applied in this case, we now turn to Appellant Yelder's specific allegation of his trial counsel's ineffectiveness.

The appellant, a black male, contends that his trial counsel, also a black male, was ineffective in that he failed to raise a Batson objection concerning the State's use of its peremptory challenges. This issue was first raised in appellant's motion for a new trial. At the hearing on this motion, trial counsel testified that 18 of the 73 potential jurors qualified in this case were black. Trial counsel further testified that the State used 17 of its 29 peremptory challenges to remove 17 of the 18 black prospective jurors. The racial composition of the jury was 11 white jurors and one black juror. Trial counsel stated that he made no Batson objection to the State's use of its peremptory challenges to strike black prospective jurors despite the fact that Batson had been decided more than two years prior to appellant's trial. When trial counsel was asked if he had read the recent Alabama decisions on Batson prior to striking the jury in this case, he replied, "Since the Yelder trial I have read

the Branch [Ex parte Branch, 526 So.2d 609 (Ala. 1987) (general guidelines set out for application of Batson decision)] decision."

Appellant's conviction is not due to be reversed, because appellant has failed to prove that there is a reasonable probability that the outcome of his trial would have been different. Here, the evidence against appellant was overwhelming. A palm print found inside the victim's home at the point of her assailant's entry was positively identified as coming from the appellant. Forensic experts testified that there was a possibility that semen found on the victim's pajama pants belonged to appellant and that fibers found at the point of entry were consistent with fibers in the shirt appellant was wearing at the time of his arrest. Appellant's co-worker testified that he picked appellant up at a nearby convenience store early on the morning following the incident. Finally, the victim positively identified the appellant at trial as the man who entered her

home, robbed her, and raped her on May 30, 1988. We find, therefore, that based on the totality of the evidence before the court, appellant has failed to meet his burden of showing that the decision reached by the jury likely would have been different absent his trial counsel's failure to raise a Batson objection.

II

The appellant next contends that the trial court erred by not restricting the State's cross-examination of defense witnesses Leanne Yelder and Caroletha Washington. On direct examination both women provided an alibi for appellant on the night in question. During cross-examination each was asked if she could explain how appellant's palm print came to be found in the victim's residence during the police investigation of the crime scene. Over defense counsel's objection, each woman answered in the negative. Appellant argues that the prosecutor's question called for a

conclusion on the part of the witness, and thus improperly invaded the province of the jury.

> "It is well established in Alabama that cross examination is not limited to matters brought out on direct examination, but extends to all matters within the issues of the case. Hughes v. State, 385 So.2d 1010 (Ala.Cr.App. 1980); Braswell v. State, 371 So.2d 992 (Ala.Cr.App. 1979); Ala.Code §12-21-137 (1975). The privilege of cross-examination inures to the benefit of the State, in a criminal prosecution, just as to any other party. Bickerstaff v. State, 369 So.2d 315 (Ala.Cr.App. 1979). The scope and extent of such are matters addressed to the sound discretion of the trial court, whose ruling will not be disturbed absent a showing of gross abuse or substantial injury. McFerrin v. State, 339 So.2d 127 (Ala.Cr.App. 1976); Roberts v. State, 338 So.2d 466 (Ala.Cr.App. 1976)."

Trawick v. State, 431 So.2d 574, 576-77 (Ala.Cr.App. 1983).

Here, the witnesses in question provided an alibi for appellant. Each testified that, on the night in question, appellant could not have been the individual who entered the victim's residence and raped

her because at the time of the assault, the appellant was with his girl friend in an entirely different part of town from where the victim's residence was located. Following this testimony, the State then inquired of each witness if she could explain how the appellant's palm print got on the victim's bathroom window. Clearly, this question was asked to test the credibility of the witnesses, and was not asked for the purpose of proving the bad character of the accused. Indeed, the subject of the prosecution's inquiry, the presence of appellant's palm print in the victim's home, was an undisputed fact and was not, in and of itself, a "misdeed." See Wiggins v. State, 513 So.2d 73, 78 (Ala.Cr.App. 1987). The prosecutor's question involved a matter which was at issue in the case regarding appellant's alibi defense. Accordingly, the trial court did not abuse its discretion when it allowed the prosecution to cross- examine these defense witnesses concerning the palm print.

III

Appellant's final contention of error is that the trial court erred in allowing the State to introduce his known palm print into evidence when that palm print had been obtained as a result of appellant's having previously been adjudicated a youthful offender. This, he argues, violates §15-19-7, Code of Alabama 1975.

That Code section provides in part as follows:

> "The fingerprints and photographs and other records of a person adjudged a youthful offender shall not be open to public inspection; provided, however, that the court may, in its discretion permit the inspection of papers or records."

It would appear, therefore, from the plain language of this statute that it is within the sound discretion of the trial court to permit the inspection of an adjudicated youthful offender's fingerprints, photographs, or other records. See also Coleman v. Alabama, 827 F.2d 1469, 1472 (11th Cir. 1987);

Raines v. State, 294 Ala. 360, 317 So.2d 559, 561 (1975). Here, the prosecution offered the known palm print of appellant, which had been obtained when he was a youthful offender. Defense counsel objected, arguing that palm print was inadmissible because it had been obtained as a result of appellant's prior adjudication as a youthful offender. The trial judge overruled defense counsel's objection and received appellant's known palm print into evidence. This palm print was relevant and material to the case at bar, as it linked appellant to the crime scene. Accordingly, the trial court did not abuse its discretion when it received appellant's known palm print into evidence.

Appellant received a fair trial. His conviction is therefore due to be, and it is hereby, affirmed.

AFFIRMED.

All the Judges concur except Bowen, J., who dissents with opinion.

BOWEN, J., dissenting

The majority implicitly finds that trial counsel erred by failing to raise a Batson objection, and that this error was professionally unreasonable. Nevertheless, it affirms appellant's conviction because it finds that appellant failed, under the Strickland v. Washington test, to prove that he was prejudiced by his counsel's error. The Strickland test for prejudice, except in those instances where prejudice can be presumed, is an outcome- determinative one: whether, absent the attorney's error, "the factfinder would have had a reasonable doubt respecting guilt."

This outcome-determinative test is simply not the proper criterion for measuring prejudice in the context of a Batson error. Applying this measure of prejudice to a Batson error would be, in effect, requiring the appellant to prove that, had blacks not been unfairly removed from his jury, the factfinder might have acquitted him! This is precisely

the assumption Batson forbids. "[T]he Equal Protection Clause forbids the States ... to strike black veniremen on the assumption that they will be biased in a particular case simply because the defendant is black." 476 U.S. at 97. "Exclusion of blacks from a jury, solely because of race, can no more be justified by a belief that blacks are less likely than whites to consider fairly or sympathetically the State's case against a black defendant than it can be justified by the notion that blacks lack the 'intelligence, experience, or moral integrity,' to be entrusted with that role." 476 U.S. at 104-05 (Marshall J., concurring) (citations omitted).

As Batson itself indicates, an outcome-determinative test simply is not appropriate for a fourteenth amendment juror discrimination claim. If it were used, no appellant could ever prove prejudice without relying on the pernicious assumption that Batson condemns, that is, that if blacks had not been struck from a black defendant's jury,

the defendant would more likely have been found not guilty.

The test must, of necessity then, be one of presumed prejudice, i.e., that if in fact blacks were unfairly removed from his jury, the appellant was deprived of a fair trial, a trial whose result is reliable. The "fair trial" and "reliable result" tests are implicit in both Strickland and Batson. The Strickland court, in a portion of the opinion quoted by the majority here, in fact stated the "prejudice" test as follows: "Second, the defendant must show that the deficient performance prejudiced the defense. This requires showing that counsel's errors were so serious as to deprive the defendant of a fair trial, a trial whose result is reliable." 466 U.S. at 687 (emphasis added).

Only later in the Strickland opinion did the court, after explaining that prejudice is not normally presumed (except in the cases of actual or constructive denial of counsel, interference with counsel's assistance, or

actual conflict of interest), but must be affirmatively proved, set out the outcome-determinative test, noting that "claims alleging a deficiency in attorney performance are subject to a general requirement that the defendant affirmatively prove prejudice." 466 U.S. at 693 (emphasis added).

Strickland, decided two years before Batson, did not include juror discrimination claims as a further exception, but the general requirement of affirmatively proving prejudice should, in a Batson context, giveway to an additional exception for presumed prejudice since, as the Court in Batson observed, "Selection procedures that purposefully exclude black persons from juries undermine public confidence in the fairness of our system of justice." 476 U.S. at 87 (emphasis added).

> "Purposeful racial discrimination in selection of the venire violates a defendant's right to equal protection because it denies him the protection that

> a trial by jury is intended to secure. 'The very idea of a jury is a body ... composed of the peers or equals of the person whose rights it is selected or summoned to determine; that is, of his neighbors, fellows, associates, persons having the same legal status in society as that which he holds."

476 U.S. at 86.

If the appellant's trial was marred by purposeful racial discrimination, then we must presume he has been denied the very protection the right to trial by jury was intended to secure. We do not know yet whether appellant's trial was marred by purposeful racial discrimination, because no Batson hearing was held. The cause should, therefore, be remanded for a Batson inquiry and should be procedurally in the same posture as other cases remanded for Batson determinations.

APPENDIX B

[RELEASED: JANUARY 11, 1991]

SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA

OCTOBER TERM, 1990-91

89-1540

Ex parte Timothy John Yelder

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI
TO THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

(Re: Timothy John Yelder

v.

State)

(Montgomery Circuit Court, CC-88-1544, -1545, and -1546)

SHORES, JUSTICE.

This petition for certiorari presents a case of first impression in Alabama. Yelder argues that he was denied effective assistance of counsel in that at his trial his lawyer did not object, under Batson v. Kentucky, 476 U.S. 79 (1986), to the State's use of its peremptory challenges to strike 17 of 18 black

jurors. The legal standard for determining claims of ineffective assistance of counsel is set out in Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668 (1984):

> "First, the defendant must show that counsel's performance was deficient. This requires showing that counsel made errors so serious that counsel was not functioning as the 'counsel' guaranteed the defendant by the Sixth Amendment. Second, the defendant must show that the deficient performance prejudiced the defense. This requires showing that counsel's errors were so serious as to deprive the defendant of a fair trial, a trial whose result is reliable. Unless a defendant makes both showings, it cannot be said that the conviction or death sentence resulted from a breakdown in the adversary process that renders the result unreliable."

466 U.S. at 687. See, also, Ex parte Lawley, 512 So.2d 1370, 1372 (Ala. 1987). As to the first part of the Strickland test, the standard for attorney performance is an objective one, that is, "reasonableness under prevailing norms," 466 U.S. at 688, and "any

deficiencies in counsel's performance must be prejudicial to the defense in order to constitute ineffective assistance under the Constitution." 466 U.S. at 692. In cases involving denial of assistance of counsel, counsel's conflict of interest, or state interference with counsel's assistance, prejudice will be presumed, id., but in all other cases, prejudice must be "affirmatively" proved. 466 U.S. at 693. The standard for determining prejudice is also set forth in Strickland:

> "The defendant must show that there is a reasonable probability that, but for counsel's unprofessional errors, the result of the proceeding would have been different. A reasonable probability is a probability sufficient to undermine confidence in the outcome.... In making this determination, a court hearing an ineffectiveness claim must consider the totality of the evidence before the judge or jury."

466 U.S. at 694, 695.

Yelder argues that an additional category under the "presumed prejudice" exception should be created: failure of trial counsel to make a timely Batson objection when a prima facie case exists of purposeful discrimination by the State in the jury selection process. In order to protect and preserve the holding of Batson (that ["p]urposeful racial discrimination in selection of the venire violates a defendant's right to equal protection," Batson, 476 U.S. at 86) and to bolster public confidence in the fairness of our system of justice, 476 U.S. at 87, we agree with Judge Bowen's dissent that it is necessary to create the suggested additional category under the "presumed prejudice" exception of Strickland. Accordingly, we reverse that portion of the judgment of the Court of Criminal Appeals that addresses the issue of effective assistance of counsel, and we remand the case to the Court

of Criminal Appeals with directions to remand it to the trial court for a hearing on the Batson question.

Facts

Timothy John Yelder was convicted of rape in the first degree, a violation of § 13A-6-61, Code of Alabama 1975; burglary in the first degree, a violation of § 13A-7-5; and robbery in the first degree, a violation of § 13A-8-41. At the sentencing hearing, the trial court sentenced Yelder to life imprisonment on the rape charge, 25 years' imprisonment on the burglary charge, and 50 years' imprisonment on the robbery charge.

Yelder moved for a new trial and later amended his motion to include the ineffective assistance of counsel argument now before us. The trial court held a hearing to consider Yelder's motion, and denied it. Yelder appealed to the Court of Criminal

Appeals, which affirmed his convictions. See Yelder v. State, [Ms. 3 Div. 95, May 25, 1990] ___ So.2d ___ (Ala. Cr. App. 1990). We granted Yelder's petition for writ of certiorari.

The Strickland Test and Presumed Prejudice

In his dissent, Judge Bowen correctly noted that the Strickland test for prejudice, excluding those instances of presumed prejudice, is outcome-determinative in nature; that is, it must appear that, absent the lawyer's error, there is a reasonable probability that the result of the trial would have been different. Judge Bowen correctly states that such an outcome-determinative test "is simply not the proper criterion for measuring prejudice in the context of a Batson error," and he says, "Applying this measure of prejudice to a Batson error would be, in effect, requiring the appellant to prove that, had blacks not been unfairly removed from his

jury, the factfinder might have acquitted him!" (Bowen, J., dissenting).

It is the assumption cited by Judge Bowen that Batson was designed to combat:

> "Just as the Equal Protection Clause forbids the States to exclude black persons from the venire on the assumption that blacks as a group are unqualified to serve as jurors [citation omitted], so it forbids the States to strike black veniremen on the assumption that they will be biased in a particular case simply because the defendant is black. The core guarantee of equal protection, ensuring citizens that their State will not discriminate on account of race, would be meaningless were we to approve the exclusion of jurors on the basis of such assumptions, which arise solely from the jurors' race."

476 U.S. at 97-98. If an outcome-determinative test is used, then no black appellant could prove prejudice unless he relied on the very assumption that Batson condemns.

In Batson, the Court noted the importance of maintaining fairness within our system of justice so as not to undermine

public confidence. In Ex parte Jackson, 516 So.2d 768 (Ala. 1986), we required the retroactive application of Batson. In doing so, we noted, "Although we know that the United States Supreme Court has not yet ruled on whether Batson v. Kentucky is to be applied retroactively, this Court does not need to await revelation from the federal judiciary...." 516 So.2d at 772. Strickland was decided two years before Batson, so it did not anticipate claims of alleged ineffectiveness in the context of the Batson issue. Had Strickland anticipated that issue, we are certain it would have included that issue as one of those in regard to which prejudice is presumed. We need not await enlargement of Strickland by the federal courts to hold that prejudice is presumed where Batson violations are established in the context of a charge of ineffective counsel.

Conclusion

We adopt the dissenting opinion of Judge Bowen and hold that the failure of trial counsel to make a timely Batson objection to a prima facie case of purposeful discrimination by the State in the jury selection process through its use of peremptory challenges is presumptively prejudicial to a defendant. Accordingly, we reverse the judgment of the Court of Criminal Appeals to the extent that it holds to the contrary, and we affirm the other aspects of the judgment, and we remand the case with directions to remand it to the trial court for a Batson hearing.

AFFIRMED IN PART; REVERSED IN PART; AND REMANDED.

Hornsby, C. J., and Jones, Houston, Steagall, and Kennedy, JJ., concur.

Maddox, J., dissents.

Ex parte Yelder

MADDOX, JUSTICE, (dissenting).

I agree with the majority opinion of the Court of Criminal Appeals, Yelder v. State, [Ms. 3 Div. 95, May 25, 1990] __ So.2d ___ (Ala. Crim. App. 1990); therefore, I must dissent.

APPENDIX C

THE STATE OF ALABAMA - - - JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA

February 6, 1991

89-1540

Ex parte Timothy John Yelder

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO
THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

(Re: Timothy John Yelder v. State)

(CCA 3/95 (Montgomery CC-88-1544,
1545, 1546))

The respondent having filed a motion to stay any further action in this cause pending review by the U. S. Supreme Court, and said motion having been duly considered by the Court,

IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that said motion to stay further action in this cause pending review by the U. S. Supreme Court be, and the same is hereby, denied.

Maddox, J., dissents.

MADDOX, JUSTICE (dissenting).

I would grant the State's motion to stay the judgment pending appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States because I believe that a federal constitutional question of significant proportions is presented, that question being: If trial counsel fails to make a timely Batson[1] objection, does that constitute ineffective assistance of counsel under the principles set out in Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668 (1984), especially in view of the principles announced in Harris v. Reed, 109 S.Ct. 1038 (1989), that constitutional claims not timely presented may be procedurally barred?

If the failure of trial counsel to assert a Batson objection is presumptively prejudicial, then it would follow that every other failure of trial counsel to assert timely a constitutional right could constitute ineffective assistance of counsel.

---

[1]Batson v. Kentucky, 476 U.S. 79 (1986).

Except in death cases, where we search the record for "plain error," this Court normally will not allow a defendant to make an objection that should have been made during the trial of the case. Batson objections are required to be made before the jury is sworn to try the case. Leonard v. State, 551 So.2d 1143 (Ala.Cr.App. 1989). In view of that principle, I believe that the law relating to procedural bar and waiver should apply to a Batson challenge, just as those principles apply in other settings.

I realize that the question of an effective waiver of a federal constitutional right is governed by federal standards, Boykin v. Alabama, 395 U.S. 238 (1969), but I do not believe that the Supreme Court of the United States has held, or will hold, that the failure of trial counsel to make a Batson objection, even if there is a prima facie case shown, is "presumed prejudicial" under the Strickland test. The fact that the Supreme Court did not make Batson retroactive, and

only applied the principle to pending cases in which the challenge was made at the trial level, convinces me of the validity of my position. In any event, I believe that the State should be permitted to ask the Supreme Court to review this decision before this case is remanded back to the trial court.

I am aware that the Supreme Court of the United States, on November 5, 1990, in Wisconsin v. Walker, 111 S.Ct. 397, 112 L.Ed.2d 406, refused to review a case from Wisconsin, State v. Walker, 453 N.W.2d 127 (Wisc. 1990), in which the Wisconsin Court did review the defendant's Batson claim even though it was not presented at the trial. The Wisconsin Court did not reach the defendant's ineffective assistance of counsel claim, but elected to apply a principle of Wisconsin law that "[a]lthough objections which have been waived are not reviewable as a matter of right, this court may consider such objections if it chooses." 453 N.W.2d at 131. Consequently, I do not believe that the

Supreme Court of the United States, in refusing to review that case, necessarily decided the issue presented in this case.

Although I have not done extensive research of all the cases, I found no other case that holds that the failure of trial counsel to make a Batson objection is presumptively prejudicial. Because I believe that this case presents important federal constitutional questions relating to the scope of Strickland, in view of the principles set out in Harris v. Reed, I would grant the State's motion to stay.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, P. David Bjurberg, a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, do hereby certify that on this 8 day of April, 1991, I did serve a copy of this petition and a copy of the accompanying appendix on Respondent, by placing the same in the United States Mail, first class postage prepaid, and properly addressed to counsel of record for Respondent as follows:

Honorable Arthur Parker
210 Frank Nelson Building
Birmingham, Alabama 35230

Honorable R. B. Jones
210 Frank Nelson Building
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

I further certify I have served all parties required to be served.

P. David Bjurberg

P. DAVID BJURBERG
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY
GENERAL OF ALABAMA

ADDRESS OF COUNSEL:
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2805P

NO. 90-1600

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1990

STATE OF ALABAMA,

Petitioner

-VS-

TIMOTHY JOHN YELDER,

Respondent

RESPONDENT'S BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO
PETITIONER'S PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI
TO THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA

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STATEMENT OF THE CASE

The Statement of The Case as set out in Petitioner's brief and Appendix is correct; however, the Respondent Yelder adds thereto the following:

The Respondent Yelder was convicted of rape, burglary and robbery in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Alabama, and sentenced to a total of life imprisonment plus seventy-five (75) years on the charges; Ex parte Yelder, 575 So.2d 137, 138 (Ala. 1991). Yelder is a black man and the alleged victim is a white woman (Motion For New Trial, R. 4).

Subsequent to the opinion of the Supreme Court of Alabama in this case wherein the case was ordered remanded with directions to the trial court to hold a Batson hearing, the Petitioner requested stays from the Supreme Court of Alabama, the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals, Justice Kennedy and Justice Scalia; all of which were denied.

Even though on March 29, 1991, this case was remanded to the Circuit Court with directions that the trial court hold a hearing on the Batson question; to the date of filing this response, the Petitioner has not been required to give any race neutral explanation for striking seventeen (17) of eighteen (18) prospective black jurors in the trial of the cases (Appendix "A").

ARGUMENT

The Alabama Supreme Court in the instant case held "that the failure of trial counsel to make a timely Batson objection to a prima facie case of purposeful discrimination by the State in the jury selection process through its use of peremptory challenges is presumptively prejudicial to a defendant;" and thereby met the Strickland standard as to ineffective assistance of counsel.

The opinion of the Court is more succinct than anything Yelder might write, and therefore Yelder quotes the following reasoning for the holding of the Court:

> "[t]hat such an outcome-determinative test 'is simply not the proper criterion for measuring prejudice in the context of a Batson error,' . . . 'Applying this measure of prejudice to a Batson error would be, in effect, requiring the appellant to prove that, had blacks not been unfairly removed from his jury, the factfinder might have acquitted him!"
>
> "If an outcome-determinative test is used, then no black appellant could prove prejudice unless he relied on the very assumption that Batson condemns."
>
> "Strickland was decided two years before Batson, so it did not anticipate claims of alleged ineffectiveness in the context of the Batson issue. Had Strickland anticipated that issue, we are certain it would have included that issue as one of those in regard to which prejudice is presumed. We need not await enlargement of Strickland by the federal courts to hold that prejudice is presumed where Batson violations are established in the context of a charge of ineffective counsel.

The Petitioner argues in brief beginning at Page 14:

"The holding of the Alabama Supreme Court should be overruled by this Court because the failure to make a Batson objection is not a case where prejudice should be presumed."

"Prejudice has been presumed only in cases where a fundamental right has been denied such as the right to counsel or the right to appeal. . . . These are cases where the right denied was necessary to the truth finding function of a trial. The failure of a defendant's trial counsel to make a Batson objection does not rise to the level of a denial of a fundamental right." (Citations omitted).

The language of this Honorable Court in Powers v. Ohio, 499 U.S. ____, 111 S.Ct. 1364 (1991), completely vitiates Petitioner's argument. The Court held:

> "The discriminatory use of peremptory challenges by the prosecution causes a criminal defendant cognizable injury, and the defendant has a concrete interest in challenging the practice. . . . This is not because the individual jurors dismissed by the prosecution may have been predisposed to favor the defendant; if that were true, the jurors might have been excused for cause. Rather, it is because racial discrimination in the selection of jurors 'casts doubt on the integrity of the judicial process . . . and places the fairness of a criminal proceeding in doubt." (Citations omitted).
>
> "A prosecutor's wrongful exclusion of a juror by a race-based peremptory challenge is a constitutional violation committed in open court at the outset of the proceedings."

"If the defendant has no right to object to the prosecutor's improper exclusion of jurors, and if the trial court has no duty to make a prompt inquiry when the defendant shows, by adequate grounds, a likelihood of impropriety in the exercise of a challenge, there arise legitimate doubts that the jury has been chosen by proper means."

"Upon these considerations, we find that a criminal defendant suffers a real injury when the prosecutor excludes jurors at his or her own trial on account of race."

"Petitioner has much at stake in proving that his jury was improperly constituted due to an equal protection violation, for we have recognized that discrimination in the jury selection process may lead to the reversal of a conviction."

". . . [a]nd that, where racial bias is likely to influence a jury, an inquiry must be made into such bias." (Citations omitted).

"The courts are under an affirmative duty to enforce the strong statutory and constitutional policies embodied in that prohibition." (Citations omitted).

The Court in Powers then determined that under the Equal Protection Clause, a criminal defendant may object to race based exclusions of jurors through peremptory challenges. Under the Equal Protection Clause, a criminal defendant may object to race-based exclusions of jurors through peremptory challenges whether or not the defendant and the excluded jurors share the same race.

In the case of Edmonson v. Leesville, etc., ____ U.S. ____, 111 S.Ct. 2077 (1991), this Honorable Court extended the Batson rule to include a private litigant in a civil case may not use peremptory challenges to exclude jurors on

account of race, and reaffirmed Powers v. Ohio, supra.

It is apparent that the principle announced in Strauder v. West Virginia, 100 U.S. 303, 25 L.Ed.664, that a State denies a black defendant equal protection when it puts him on trial before a jury from which members of his race have been purposefully excluded, was reaffirmed in Batson v. Kentucky, 476 U.S. 79 (1986), and the same principle has been reaffirmed in Powers v. Ohio, supra, and Edmondson v. Leesville, supra.

It is abundantly clear that Yelder, a black man accused and tried for rape, robbery and burglary as to an alleged white victim, was deprived of his fundamental right - his constitutional right to equal protection under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution - when the Petitioner peremptorily challenged 17 of 18 black prospective jurors as obviously race based exclusions of said jurors. The Petitioner has yet failed to give any race neutral explanation for said peremptory challenges.

Finally, the Petitioner argues that:

> "Under Yelder, a defendant's attorney must make a Batson objection to the racial composition of the jury even though it might not be in his client's best interest to make such an objection since the failure to make a Batson objection to a prima facie case of purposeful discrimination is presumptively prejudicial under Strickland . . ."

Therefore:

> "[in] every case where a prima facie case of purposeful discrimination exists under Batson, the defendant's attorney has to make a Batson objection under Yelder . . ."

Or he:

> "[d]eprives a defendant of his Sixth Amendment right to effective representation of counsel."

This argument of Petitioner is flawed for it is basic that an attorney should be straight forward and honest with his client and with the Court, and could easily ascertain whether the Equal Protection Clause was violated in the jury selection process. It would not be expected that this would be necessary except in rare instances. As quoted aforesaid, this Court has stated in Powers v. Ohio, supra:

> "That where racial bias is likely to influence a jury, an inquiry must be made into such bias."

And:

> "The courts are under an affirmative duty to enforce the strong statutory and constitutional policies embodied in that prohibition."

As noted in a Batson footnote at Page 89:

> "Certainly, this Court may assume that trial judges, in supervising voir dire in light of our decision today, will be alert to identify a prima facie case of purposeful discrimination."

Any defendant's attorney who is straight forward and honest with his client and the trial court as to his

acceptance of jurors on a race neutral basis cannot be ineffective in his representation of his client.

Yelder was denied equal protection under the Fourteenth Amendment when the Petitioner used peremptory challenges to exclude 17 of 18 blacks from the jury which tried Yelder. This was purposeful discrimination in the selection of the jury by the Petitioner.

Yelder's trial attorney (who is not his appellate attorney) failed to raise this constitutional Batson issue. Therefore, the Supreme Court of Alabama has held under Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668 (1984), that trial counsel's performance was deficient in that trial counsel made serious errors which deprived Yelder of counsel guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment. The Supreme Court of Alabama then properly held that the failure of trial counsel to make that timely Batson objection to a prima facie case of purposeful discrimination by the State in the way the jury was struck, was presumptively prejudicial to Yelder and satisfied the Strickland test as to ineffective assistance of counsel.

For the reasons above stated, the Supreme Court of Alabama ruled consistently with the Constitution of the United States and the law as laid down by the cases cited herein. The Petitioner's Petition For Writ of Certiorari should be denied.

CONCLUSION

The Supreme Court of Alabama correctly decided the issue herein and stated the following:

> "[t]he Strickland test for prejudice, excluding those instances of presumed prejudice, is outcome-determinative in nature; that is, it must appear that, absent the lawyer's error, there is a reasonable probability that the result of the trial would have been different . . . such an outcome-determinative test 'is simply not the proper criterion for measuring prejudice in the context of a Batson error,' . . . 'Applying this measure of prejudice to a Batson error would be, in effect, requiring the appellant to prove that, had blacks not been unfairly removed from his jury, the factfinder might have acquited him!"

In Batson, supra, it was held that:

> "[t]he Equal Protection Clause forbids the States to exclude black persons from the venire on the assumption that blacks as a group are unqualified to serve as jurors [citations omitted], so it forbids the States to strike black veniremen on the assumption that they will be biased in a particular case simply because the defendant is black."

> "If an outcome-determinative test is used, then no black appellant could prove prejudice unless he relied on the very assumption that Batson condemns." Yelder, supra.

Therefore:

> "[t]he failure of trial counsel to make a timely Batson objection to a prima facie case of purposeful discrimination by the State in the jury selection process through its use of peremptory challenges is presumptively prejudicial to a defendant."

Petitioner's Petition For Writ of Certiorari should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

ARTHUR PARKER
Attorney for Respondent
210 Frank Nelson Bldg.
205 North 20th Street
Birmingham, AL 35203
(205) 324-9517

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Arthur Parker, a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, do hereby certify that on this 2 day of July, 1991, I did serve a copy of this brief in opposition to Petitioner's Petition For Writ of Certiorari on Petitioner, by placing the same in the United States Mail, first class postage prepaid, and properly addressed to counsel of record for Petitioner as follows:

Honorable P. David Bjurberg
Assistant Attorney General
for the State of Alabama
Office of the Attorney General
Criminal Appeals Division
11 South Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36130

I further certify I have served all parties required to be served.

ARTHUR PARKER
Attorney for Respondent

APPENDIX "A"

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

STATE OF ALABAMA

445 DEXTER AVENUE, JUDICIAL BUILDING

MONTGOMERY 36130

JOHN PATTERSON
Presiding Judge
JOHN C. TYSON, III
WILLIAM M. BOWEN, JR.
SAM TAYLOR
H. WARD McMILLAN
Judges

June 6, 1991

Lane W. Mann
Clerk
Barbara P. Lindsey
Assistant Clerk
(205) 242-4590

Hon. Debbie Hackett
Circuit Clerk, Montgomery County
County Courthouse
Montgomery, AL 36192

Re: 3 Div. 95
Timothy John Yelder vs. State of Alabama
Montgomery Circuit Court No. CC88-1544PH; 1545PH; 1546PH

Dear Debbie:

The above referenced appeal has been pending in the Court of Criminal Appeals since December 16, 1988. On March 29, 1991, this case was remanded to the Circuit Court with directions that the trial court hold a hearing on the Batson question in compliance with the direction of the Supreme Court of Alabama in Ex parte Yelder, [Ms. 89-1540, January 11, 1991] __ So2d __(Ala. 1991). To date, this Court has not received the Circuit Court's return to remand.

In the event you have everything required to file the return to remand, the Court requests that you please do so at your earliest convenience. If the Circuit Court has not yet taken all the action required to permit filing of the return to remand, I am, by copy of this letter, advising the trial judge that the Court of Criminal Appeals respectfully requests that all action required be taken in sufficient time to permit filing of the return within 42 days (by July 19, 1991), so that this appeal can be concluded.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Lane W. Mann, Clerk
Court of Criminal Appeals of Alabama

LWM/kl
cc: Joseph Phelps, Circuit Judge
Mary Lambert, Court Reporter
Arthur Parker, Esquire
R. B. Jones, Esquire
Beth Jackson Hughes, Assistant Attorney General